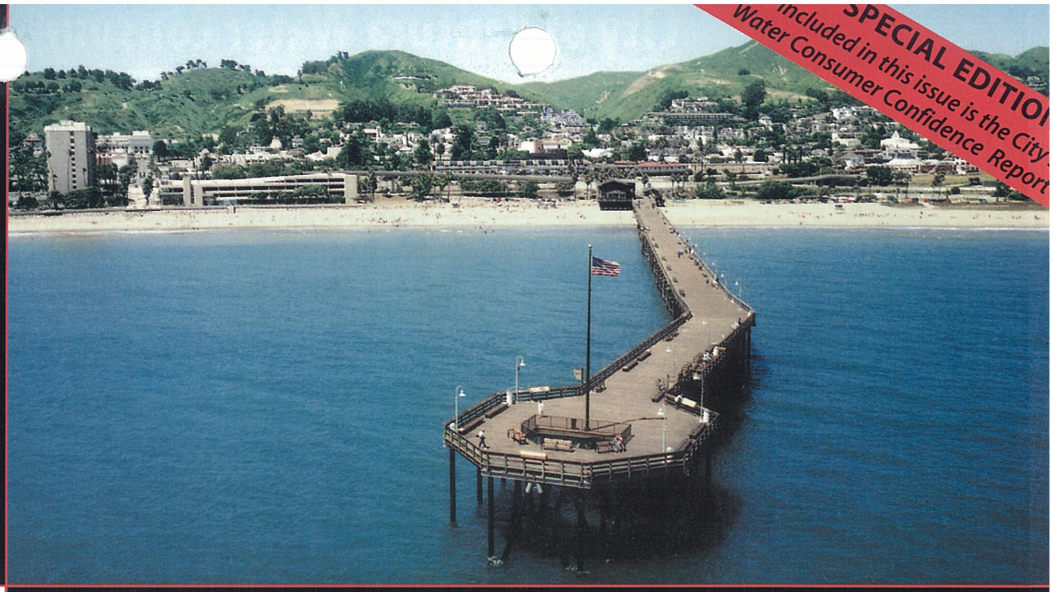
FutureFocus

Making Ventura Even Better!

In This Issue:



June - August 2004 Issue No. 35

City of San Buenaventura's Community Newsletter

Ventura Named One of America's Most Livable Communities

The Ventura delegation in Washington, D.C: from left to right are Mayor Brian Brennan; Ray DiGuilio, former Mayor; Susan Daluddung, Community Development Director; Dawn Dyer, Dyer-Sheehan Group; Mike McGuire, Affinity Bank; and Sonia Tower, former Cultural Affairs Manager.

Ventura was named one of America's most livable communities by Partners for Livable Communities during a National Press Club event in Washington, D.C. in April.

Partners for Livable Communities honored Ventura with this designation because of the City's novel approach to economic development, use of assets such as arts and cultural resources, creative financing strategies, and collaborative leadership to revitalize downtown.

According to Partners, communities that receive this prestigious award are among the nation's top destinations for travel, business investment, relocation, learning, retiring and living. Partners for Livable Communities focuses on the restoration and renewal of America's communities.

Ventura was selected specifically for such innovative initiatives as the Westside Revitalization Plan, Public Art Program, the Ventura Vision, Ventura Comprehensive Plan and Downtown Cultural Plan. Ventura was one of five small cities nationally to receive the award.

For more information on America's most livable communities visit www.mostlivable.org or contact Brian Haworth at 654-7758 or bhaworth@ci.ventura.ca.us

Ventura Community Park Construction Update

Construction continues to progress on the first phase of the Ventura Community Park at the corner of Kimball and Telephone Roads. Construction has begun on the bath house, the pool equipment building and the field restroom. Construction is also underway on the three pools which include a 50-meter Olympic size pool, a 25-meter pool and an activity pool. For more information call 654-7731 or visit www.venturacommunitypark.org

City Hall Terra Cotta Restoration Project

Historic City Hall is receiving a face-lift. A restoration project to repair the water damaged terra cotta tiles that make up City Hall began in Spring 2004.

During the 11-month renovation City Hall will remain accessible to the public. Several moveable hydraulic scaffolding units will be used along the front of the building to help reduce the visual impacts of construction on City Hall.

The renovation will remove the current seal on the terra cotta that is causing the water damage and replace it with a cement-based seal to allow the terra cotta blocks to breathe. This project is being funded by state grants and bond measures.

City Hall, formerly the Ventura County Courthouse, was built in 1912. The property opened as City Hall in 1972. The building features neo-classic columns, arched windows, a terra cotta facade, and 24 monks heads as a reminder of the Franciscan Order that established Mission San Buenaventura in 1782.

For more information about this restoration project please contact Bob Brager at 658-4778 or rbrager@ci.ventura.ca.us

City of Ventura Water Consumer Confidence Report 2004

The City of Ventura welcomes this opportunity to provide you with water quality information. This Water Consumer Confidence Report was prepared in compliance with regulatory requirements utilizing data gathered in 2003. Ventura's Water Division works to ensure that Ventura's water meets or exceeds state and federal standards.

Ventura's Water Sources

The City has three local water sources; each accounts for approximately one third of the entire water supply. A portion of Ventura's water is from the Ventura River and is pumped from four shallow wells. Water is also distributed from Lake Casitas, which is operated and treated by the Casitas Municipal Water District (CMWD). Additional water is pumped from groundwater wells located in the City's east side. In order to produce, treat and distribute safe water to our customers, the City owns and operates 13 wells, three water treatment plants, 23 booster pump stations, 26 water storage reservoirs and more than 350 miles of distribution pipelines.

Water Treatment

All of the City's water receives treatment. Water from the Ventura River is treated by a method referred to as Conventional Treatment. This process involves coagulation (chemical addition), flocculation (gentle agitation), sedimentation (settling particles), filtration and disinfection with chloramine. The groundwater sources are treated to remove iron, manganese and turbidity. A chemical is added at each treatment plant to help prevent the corrosion of plumbing in your home. CMWD treats the water from Lake Casitas with direct filtration and chloramines for disinfection prior to delivery into the City's system.

The City also uses chloramines for disinfection. Chloramines are chemicals that contain chlorine and ammonia. Chloramines were selected as the preferred disinfectant because of their ability to provide disinfection over an extended period, and for better taste and fewer odors compared to using chlorine. Chloramines have been proven to help deliver water to customers with lower levels of trihalomethanes (TTHMs), which are potentially harmful by products of the chlorine disinfection process.

Although Chloramines are desirable in protecting the water distribution system, their use requires additional precautions for some water uses. If a member of your household requires dialysis, you should contact your physician or dialysis service provider to assure proper protective equipment is used. If you use tap water for fish or other aquatic animals that use gills for breathing, you need to test and be sure the water is completely dechloraminated before use. Setting water in an open container for 24 hours prior to use with fish will not remove all chloramines in the water. Your local pet store can provide information and products for the proper removal of chloramines.

Water Quality Monitoring

Ventura owns and operates a full-scale, state-certified laboratory to monitor water quality. Ventura's treatment plants are run by state-certified operators and have instrumentation that continuously monitors specific water constituents to ensure that the water is of high quality.

In addition to the water quality constituents listed on the Water Quality Summary Table (see back page), the City sampled for many other regulated and 12 federal and eight state unregulated contaminants, all of which were below detection limits, except for Boron and Vanadium.

Water Quality Studies

The City, like other water purveyors in the Country, completed a federally mandated review of its water system security, with the help of security consultants. This review prioritized and evaluated the critical water facilities regarding security measures that can help minimize damage or contamination. The City has already and will continue to take steps to improve the protection of the water facilities by malevolent acts.

Since 2002, the City monitors water quality along the Ventura River and San Antonio Creek at 15 sites for Cryptosporidium, Giardia, Bacteria, Nutrients, Bromide, Total Organic Carbon, Chloride and Conductivity. The City plans to update a Sanitary Survey of the Ventura River Lower Watershed in 2006.

A separate Drinking Water Source Assessment for Ventura River and groundwater wells was completed in January 2002. No contaminants have been detected in the water supply from such surrounding sources as gas stations, agricultural drainage, dry cleaners, urban run off, septic/sewer systems, metal plating/finishing and repair shops.

As a water supplier, the City must complete an evaluation of its supply with respect to Public Health Goals (PHG) every three years. The City completed an evaluation in 2001, which determined the only element in the City's drinking water that exceeded any PHG was Copper. Copper is found in water as a result of the corrosion of Copper plumbing fixtures used in most homes. The mandatory Regulatory Action Level (RAL) for Copper is 1300 parts per billion (ppb), the PHG is 170 ppb and the 90th percentile was 1100 ppb. The City water supply meets the mandatory level. In 2002, the City completed residential sampling and testing for Lead and Copper levels. The results were below the 90th percentile RAL, and no follow up testing or additional treatment was required. The City has conducted tests to optimize its treatment with corrosion inhibitors in an effort to further reduce Lead and Copper levels.

Potential Concerns

In order to ensure tap water is safe, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the California Department of Health Services prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The City of Ventura treats its water according to these regulations. The regulations of the Food and Drug Administration establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for the public health.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Ventura's water meets or exceeds state and federal standards

Sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and can pick up contaminants resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agriculture and livestock operations and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides from a variety of sources, such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals that are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Some people are more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised individuals, such as people with cancer, those undergoing chemotherapy, people who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly people and infants can be particularly at risk from infections and are at greater risk of developing life-threatening illnesses. The City encourages immuno-compromised individuals to consult their doctors regarding appropriate precautions to take to avoid infection.

The City takes precautions to eliminate the risk of infection from microbial contaminants, including Giardia and Cryptosporidium, from its water system. These organisms are found in surface water throughout the U.S. and ingesting them may cause an abdominal infection. Symptoms of infection include nausea, diarrhea and abdominal cramps. The City has been sampling for possible risks present in the Ventura River Watershed since 2000, finding Giardia in only one sample. The City's treatment processes for surface water include coagulation, filtration and Chloramine disinfection to remove these organisms. The USEPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium, Giardia and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Water Quality Terminology

The Ventura's Water Quality Summary on the back page shows constituents measured in Ventura's water and reported to the State Department of Health Services, and in some cases the USEPA. Some of the terminology used is described below:

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary (health related) MCLs are set as close to the Public Health Goals (PHGs) or Maximum Contaminant Level Goals (MCLGs) as is economically and technologically feasible. Secondary (aesthetically related) MCLs are set to protect the odor, taste and appearance of drinking water.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to one's health. MCLGs are set by the USEPA.

Public Health Goal (PHG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to one's health. The California Environmental Protection Agency sets PHGs.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The level of a disinfectant added for water treatment that may not be exceeded at the consumer's tap.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): The level of a disinfectant added for water treatment below, which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLs are set by the USEPA.

Primary Drinking Water Standard (PDWS): MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.

Regulatory Action Level (RAL): The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

For More Information

- If you would like more information regarding the City's water quality, please contact Ventura's Water Superintendent at 652-4500. This *Water Consumer Confidence Report* is also available on the City's website at www.ci.ventura.ca.us
- You are invited to express your opinions at City Council meetings held each Monday at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Ventura City Hall, 501 Poli Street.
- Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien. Para más información, por favor llame 658-4785.

FutureFocus newsletter is published six times a year for residents by the City of San Buenaventura. We welcome your suggestions. Please send comments to:

Editor, *FutureFocus* Newsletter • P.O. Box 99 • Ventura, CA 93002
knicely@ci.ventura.ca.us
Marketing & Public Affairs Division (805) 677-3914

Editor: Kelly V. Nicely • Graphic Design: Karen Grahek Moser
Masthead Photo: WP Photographic Services, Ventura

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, this document is available in alternate formats by calling 654-7850 or 654-7766 TDD.

Ventura's Water Quality Summary 2004

Utilizing data collected in 2003. Only water quality constituents detected by laboratory testing appear in the chart.

PRIMARY STANDARDS (PDWS)	Units	Maximum Level MCL	State Goal PHG	Ventura River Average	Ventura River Range	Ground Water Average	Ground Water Range	CMWD Average	CMWD Range	Major Sources of Contamination in Drinking Water
Water Clarity										
Treated Turbidity (a)	NTU	TT	NA	0.9	0.07 - 0.11	NA	NA	0.07 (b)	0.01-0.07 (b)	Process and source variations.
Radioactive Contaminants										
Gross Alpha particle activity	pCi/l	15	NA	4.65	1.7-10.0	7.3	1.9 - 17.5	1.3	0.9 - 2	Erosion of natural deposits.
Radium 226	pCi/l	5	NA	0.10	ND - 0.23	0.48	0.12 - 0.89	NA	NA	Erosion of natural deposits.
Uranium (c)	pCi/l	20	0.5	2.44	2.0 - 4.0	4.9	3.8 - 6.8	NA	NA	Erosion of natural deposits.
Inorganic Contaminants										
Arsenic	ppb	50	NA	ND	ND	ND	ND	2.6	2.0 - 3.2	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass and electronics production waste.
Fluoride	ppm	2	1	0.47	0.44-0.51	0.56	0.5- 0.8	0.4	0.3 - 0.4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive that promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Selenium	ppb	50	NA	ND	ND	ND	ND - 19	ND	ND	Discharge from refineries or manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	ppm	10	10	.05	ND - 1.4	ND	ND - 2.4	ND	ND	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits.

PRIMARY STANDARDS for Distribution System	Units	MCL MRDL	PHG (MCLG) MRDLG	Distribution System Average	Distribution System Range	Major Sources of Contamination in Drinking Water
Disinfection						
Chloramine Residual	ppm	4	4	2.1	0.4 - 5	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment.
Disinfection By Products						
Total Trihalomethanes	ppb	80	NA	42 (e)	1 - 69	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Total Haloacetic Acids	ppb	60	NA	22 (c)	ND - 38	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Microbiological Contaminants						
Total Coliform Bacteria	NA	5%	0	0	0	Naturally present in the environment.
Fecal Coliform Bacteria	NA	0	0	0	0	Human and animal fecal waste.

LEGEND

NA: Not applicable
ND: Not detectable
NS: No standard
NTU: Turbidity, a measure of the clarity or cloudiness of the water.
ppb: Parts per billion or micrograms per liter.
ppm: Parts per million or milligrams per liter
pCi/l: Picocuries per liter, a measure of radioactivity in water.
CMWD: Casitas Municipal Water District
TT: Treatment Techniques. The approved filtration technology used for performance standards that must be met through the water treatment process

Lead and Copper Samples	Units	RAL	PHG	Samples Collected		Above RAL	90th Percentile	Major Sources of Contamination in Drinking Water
Lead	ppb	15	2	2	36 (d)	0	3	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Copper	ppm	1.3	0.17	0.17	36 (d)	1	1.1	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems.

SECONDARY STANDARDS		Units	Maximum Level MCL	Ventura River Average	Ventura River Range	Ground Water Average	Ground Water Range	CMWD Average	CMWD Range
Aesthetic Standards	Color	Color	15	ND	ND - 5	ND	ND - 11	1	1
	Odor	Threshold	3	ND	ND - 2	ND	ND	1	1
	Chloride	ppm	500	43	29 - 63	67	50 - 89	12	12
	Corrosivity	ppb	Non corrosive	200	400 - 540	300	10 - 820	500	500
	Iron (TT)	ppb	300	ND	ND	ND	ND - 100	NS	NS
	Total dissolved solids	ppm	1000	597	516 - 696	1202	1024 - 1516	330	330
	Specific conductance	umhos	1600	850	719 - 1011	1592	1382 - 1927	533	483 - 562
	Sulfate	ppm	500	200	150 - 240	531	409 - 730	133	133
Additional Constituents	pH	pH units	6.5 - 8.5	7.6	7.3 - 7.9	7.4	7.2 - 7.9	NA	NA
	Hardness	ppm	NS	371	306 - 476	614	544 - 747	211	211
	Calcium	ppm	NS	99	78 - 134	166	150- 197	NA	NA
	Magnesium	ppm	NS	30	27 - 34	48	40 - 63	NA	NA
	Manganese (TT)	ppb	50	ND	ND	ND	ND-20	NA	NA
	Sodium	ppm	NS	39	32 - 47	129	97 - 169	25	25
	Phosphate	ppb	NS	200	90 - 380	170	50 - 330	NA	NA
	Potassium	ppm	NS	2.3	1.6 - 2.6	4.7	3.8 - 6.1	NA	NA
	Total Alkalinity	ppm	NS	172	133 - 212	258	221 - 298	NA	NA

Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring (UCMR)	Units	Maximum Level MCL	Ventura River Average	Ventura River Range	Ground Water Average	Ground Water Range	CMWD Detection	CMWD Range
Boron	ppb	NS	376	299 - 439	568	367 - 728	222	177 - 222
Vanadium	ppb	NS	1.8	ND - 4.3	3.9	ND - 6.1	4.0	3.7 - 4.0

Conserve Our Water (COW)
2003 Annual Poster Contest Entry

Katie Andrews
Anacapa Middle School, 8th Grade, Honorable Mention

Footnotes: (a) Average is maximum reading. Avenue Plant TT= 0.3 NTU in 95% of samples not to exceed 1.0 NTU for more than one hour. (b) Average is maximum reading. CMWD TT= 95% of samples equal or below 0.2 NTU (c) Highest running average (d) Samples were taken at selected households on a first draw in August 2002